

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 IO-13 /089 W

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P R 211430Z OCT 77

FM USINT HAVANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 360

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR ET SO CU

SUBJECT: VISIT OF ETHIOPIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

REF: HAVANA 0362

1. ETHIOPIAN FOREIGN MINISTER FEKELE WALDE GEORGIE DEPARTED HAVANA, OCTOBER 19, AFTER FIVE-DAY VISIT HERE. BEFORE DEPARTURE, WALDE GEORGIE WAS RECEIVED BY PARTY SECOND SECRETARY AND MINISTER OF DEFENSE RAUL CASTRO. THERE HAS BEEN NO INDICATION AS TO WHETHER OR NOT RAUL CASTRO CONVERSATION TOUCHED ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE. BUT WALDE GEORGIE DID TELL GRANMA THAT HORN OF AFRICA SITUATION WAS DISCUSSED.

2. ATMOSPHERICS OF VISIT SUGGEST THAT CUBANS DO NOT WISH TO CREATE IMPRESSION OF UPGRADED INVOLVEMENT WITH ETHIOPIA. BEFORE RAUL CASTRO INTERVIEW, WALDE GEORGIE WAS NOT RECEIVED BY ANY POLITBURO MEMBERS OR OFFICIALS OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE FOREIGN POLICY STAFF. (FIDEL CASTRO: FOREIGN POLICY KINGPIN CARLOS RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ, AND CENTRAL COMMITTEE FOREIGN POLICY CHIEF RAUL VALDES VIVO HAVE, OF COURSE, ALL BEEN ABSENT IN JAMAICA DURING LAST WEEK.) NOR HAS ANY OTHER MILITARY FIGURE, OTHER THAN RAUL

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CASTRO, BEEN REPORTED AS HAVING PARTICIPATED IN MEETINGS WITH WALDE GEORGIE. (FYI CUBAN PRESS GAVE RAUL CASTRO'S TITLE AS FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL OF STATE IN DESCRIBING MEETING WITH ETHIOPIAN.)

3. FIRST THREE DAYS OF WALDE GEORGIE VISIT WERE LARGELY TAKEN UP WITH VISITS TO CATTLE RANCHES, SCHOOLS, AND FARMS IN

CAMAGUEY PROVINCE. HENRETURNED TO HAVANA, OCTOBER 18, WHERE HE WAS RECEIVED FOR "ABOUT ONE HOUR" BY CUBAN CIVIL FOREIGN AID CHIEF HECTOR RODRIGUEZ LLOMPART, WALDE GEORGIE THEN HELD TALKS WITH MINISTER OF FOREIGN RELATITNS (MINREX) MALMIERCA, THREE MINREX VICE-MINISTERS, AND MINREX DIRECTORS FOR AFRICA AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

4. FOR WHAT IT IS WORTH, CUBAN PRESS: QUOTING WALDE GEORGIE, HAS PLACED POSITIVE GLOSS ON SITUATION IN ETHIOPIA. GRANMA, OCTOBER 19, QUOTES ETHIOPIAN AS SAYING THAT POLITICAL-MILITARY SITUATION IN ETHIOPIA IS NOW CLEARER, THAT ETHIOPIAN POSITION IN NORTH (ERITREA) HAS IMPROVED AND THAT ETHIOPIAN POSITION IN SOUTH (OGADEN) HAS BEEN CONSOLIDATED. IMPLICATION THAT CUBAN PRESS APPEARS TO BE SEEKING TO CONVEY IS THAT CUBAN MILITARY HELP NOT NEEDED.

5. COMMENT: EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR COMMENTED TO CHIEF USINT OCTOBER 20 THAT ANY SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASED CUBAN MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN ETHIOPIA SEEMS UNLIKELY. GIVEN POLITICAL WEAKNESS OF ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT AND CUBA'S COMMITMENTS ELSEWHERE (I.E., ANGOLA), HE BELIEVES CUBAN GOVERNMENT PREFERS TO AVOID CLOSER IDENTIFICATION WITH PRESENT GOE. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, HE OBSERVED, THE MOST WALDE GEORGIE COULD HOPA FOR WAS GENERAL SHOWING OF CUBAN POLITICAL SOLIDARITY TO HELP SHORE UP HIS GOVERNMENT'S POSITION.
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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